3	*Project Tiger	654.052	760.802	979.998
4	*Project Elephant	200.00	558.60	480.00

*Under 'Project Elephant' scheme, assistance is provided to the States for identified elephant habitats, which also include some national parks. Under Project Tiger assistance is provided to the States for identified 'Tiger reserves' whose core areas are primarily National Parks.

New Petroleum Policy

1693. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) at what level the New Petroleum Policy was approved;

(b) whether it was subjected to a National level debate before approving; and

(c) how does our New Petroleum Policy compare with that of other Asian Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the new Industrial Policy and the economic reforms enunciated by the Government, the Hydrocarbon sector has been opened for private/foreign investment in various areas like exploration, refining and marketing. Different elements of the New Petroleum Policy are introduced in consultation with other concerned Ministries after approval of competent authority. Various issues have been and are being discussed widely at different fora. New policy initiatives are being taken to meet the strategic objective of developing a dynamic and vibrant Oil Industry which would be internationally competitive and capable of global presence. The new policy is still envolving.

Linking of Kakinada with Madras by Buckingham Canal

1694. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard of linking of Kakinada with Madras through Buckingham Canal in order to improve inland water transport facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government have given its approval to the project;

(c) if not, by when the project is likely to be cleared;

(d) the estimated cost of the project; and

(e) the financial assitance likely to be provided by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the improvement of Buckingham Canal, Commamur Canal, Eluri Canal and Kakinada Canal, was submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1988. The matter was examined in consultation with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Ultimately, it was decided by the Inland Waterways